

BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1960



Baldock U.D.C.
Council Offices,
High Street,
Baldock.
(Telephone: Baldock 3221)

P U B L I C H E A L T H S T A F F

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (also Divisional M.O. Herts. C.C.)

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
Divisional Health Office,
12 Brand Street,
Hitchin.
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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

RONALD A. D. GATES, M.A.P.H.I.

RODENT OPERATOR

J. REDHOUSE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Baldock Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

By direction of Ministry Circular 1/61 I submit a report on the health of your district for the year 1960.

The local birth rate this year (14.0) swings to a figure well below that for England and Wales (17.1). By Reason of a younger than average local population the local death rate (8.3) is much below the national rate (11.5); application of the factor supplied by the Registrar General produces a standardised death rate of 11.1.

Exceptionally for Baldock, the stillbirth and infant mortality rates for the year are much less favourable than the national rates, due probably to chance from the small local figure in each category.

Apart from measles in the fourth quarter there was no serious local occurrence of infectious disease during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health

June, 1961.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area of District	...	...	...	...	...	542 acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1960	...	...	...	...	...	7,120
Number of separately rated hereditaments at 31st March, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	2361
Number of separate dwellings (included in above figure) at 31st December, 1960	...	...	...	...	...	1819
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	£78,335
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£352

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1960

Baldock Comparable Rates for
Urban England & Wales
District

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	99	47	52
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>100</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>53</u>

Rate per 1,000 population

14.0

17.1

Illegitimate Live Births per cent
of total live births 1.0

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	-	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>

Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births

38.5

19.7

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
104	47	57

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
59	37	22

Rate per 1,000 population

8.3

11.5

INFANT DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 week	4	4	-
1 - 4 weeks	-	-	-
4 - 52 weeks	2	-	2
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000
total live births 60.0 21.7

Legitimate infant deaths per
1,000 legitimate live births 60.6

Illegitimate infant deaths per
1,000 illegitimate live births 0.0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under
4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) 40.0 15.6

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000
total live births 40.0

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths
and deaths under 1 week combined
per 1,000 total live and still
births) 76.9

Maternal Mortality (including
abortion)

Number of deaths None

Rate per 1,000 total live and
still births 0.0 0.39

Comment on Population Changes. The estimated local population shows this year a decrease of 50 persons. Live births (100) were 20 less than for 1959 while deaths (59) were 15 below the figure for 1959.

SECTION B GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

No important change occurred during the year.

SECTION C SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply. On the 1st April, 1960 the Lee Valley Water Co. took over the undertaking of the First Garden City Ltd. which has treated and supplied in bulk water to the Urban District for many years. There has been no change in distribution and results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examination indicate the water to be satisfactory at all times.

All premises in the district are provided with a direct piped supply of water.

2. Sewerage & Sewage Disposal

No change.

3. Rivers & Streams

No change.

4. Closet Accommodation

All premises but three are served with a water carriage system. The three dwellings not connected to the Public soil sewers are served by cesspools or septic tanks.

5. Public Cleansing

Although constant development is taking place, it has been possible to maintain a weekly collection from all premises in the district despite the shortage of one man for 10 months.

6. Swimming Pool (privately owned).

The pool is of 100,000 gallons capacity with a turn over every 12 hours; the water is passed through pressure filters, chlorinated and aerated. The pool which is only open during the summer months is used by factory employees and organised school classes. Samples taken weekly show the water to be satisfactory at all times with sufficient free chlorine to destroy bacteria introduced into the water.

7. Rodent Control

Normal rodent control work has continued and only minor infestations were found and treated. All the Council's undertakings received regular attention and it may be said that due to the compactness of the district little goes by unnoticed.

8. Sanitary Inspections of the Area (other than Dwellinghouses and Food Premises)

(a)	Number of inspections carried out under the Factories Act	18
(b)	Number of inspections carried out under the Petroleum Acts	13
(c)	Number of inspections carried out in connection with drainage and sewerage	33
(d)	Number of inspections carried out in connection with water supply and sampling	7
(e)	Miscellaneous inspections	16
(f)	Number of nuisances investigated and dealt with	13
(g)	Number of investigations regarding infectious diseases	2

9. Factories & Workplaces

Routine inspections were made of 26 of the 34 factories and only minor contraventions were found and dealt with. In 33 of the factories the Local Authority's duty is to enforce the provisions of the Factories Act relating to sanitary conveniences, cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature and ventilation.

The Factories Act, 1959 transferred the duties of the Local Authority of issuing certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire to the County Fire Brigade.

All the factories, with one exception, to which the Act relates have been issued with certificates that they are provided with adequate means of escape in case of fire. The exception refers to a factory which has only recently come within the provision of the Act due to a slight increase in the number of employees and here the management are undertaking works required before the certificate can be issued.

10. Clean Air Act, 1957

Observations were regularly carried out on all boiler house chimneys during the year but little smoke nuisances were detected. Of the three plants, two use oil and the other coke.

SECTION D

HOUSING

On the 31st December, 1960, the number of applications on the Council's waiting list for accommodation was 183, which is an increase of 16 when compared with the previous year's total of 167.

During 1960, 51 applications were registered, 16 applicants re-housed and 19 applications cancelled.

The development of the remaining land at the Anchor Field Housing Estate with the erection of 54 houses for sale to sitting tenants and persons on the housing list was well under construction at the end of the year with the completion of the first houses in April, 1961.

Of the two sites in the centre of the town acquired for the erection of 8 flats and 2 bungalows for aged persons, 8 were completed and occupied in June, 1961.

Negotiations are being held with the County Council for the acquisition of 60 acres of land east of the Urban District boundary for housing purposes.

The work of eliminating sub-standard property through slum clearance goes on. This is important work and requires a great deal of effort and thought on the part of the Council's officers.

During the year 3 demolition orders and 2 closing orders were made by the Council and all the tenants rehoused in Council accommodation.

The number of private dwellings provided by new construction during the year were 3, and in addition 3 were provided by conversion.

Publicity was given to owners of suitable property of the availability of improvement grants but this met with very little response. Only one application for a Discretionary Grant was received and this was refused owing to the limited bedroom accommodation. The type of older property in the town is more suitable to the Standard Grant and applications were received from 5 owner/occupiers to install the standard amenities. All applications were approved.

The scheme to provide 30 Council houses with a hot water supply and wash handbasin was carried out during the year.

Caravans

The total number of vans in the district at the end of 1960 was 48. Of this number all are on sites which have received or do not require planning consent.

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year

(1) Number of dwellinghouses inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts	20
(2) Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation	19
(3) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied by owners	5
(4) Number of dwellinghouses the subject of Closing or Demolition Orders	5
(5) Number of filthy or verminous houses	2

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

- (1) There were no special Clean Food Campaigns but food shops and food preparing premises were regularly inspected and the opportunity taken to give advice on the clean handling of food to the personnel concerned. The Food Hygiene Regulations were brought to the notice of all occupants and in a number of cases informal action taken to bring the premises up to a satisfactory standard.
- (2) The type of food premises are as follows:-
Butchers 5; cafes, restaurants, snack bars, 7;
confectioners, 6; dairies, 1; fish shops, 3;
greengrocers and fruiterers 4; grocers and provision
merchants, 4; bakehouses, 2; canteens, 2.
- (3) Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, sale and storage of ice-cream 17 (no ice cream is manufactured in the district); manufacture of meat products, 1.
- (4) There are no slaughterhouses in the district. Under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, a report submitted to the Council and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food stated that existing meat supplies to the Urban District were from multiple firms or obtained locally were adequate. There did not seem to be any reason why the pattern should change in the future.
- (5) No food poisoning instances were reported in the year.
- (6) The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 which came into operation on the 1st January, 1961 transferred the issue of dealer and supplementary licences from the District Council to the County Council.

There is only one dairy and this is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

- (7) During the year the following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:- 57 lbs tinned meat; 57 lbs tinned fruit; 51 lbs. tinned vegetables and 90 lbs potatoes.

SECTION F PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

For the year 1960 totals of acute infectious diseases notified were (after correction): Measles 92, Scarlet Fever 2, Infective Hepatitis 3, Dysentery 1, Acute Pneumonia 1 and Erysipelas 2. The only outbreak of importance is seen to have been the epidemic of Measles in the last quarter of the year.

IMMUNISATION

The measures against whooping cough and diphtheria are increasingly accepted by parents, particularly since children can now have the combined triple vaccine (including tetanus toxoid). There has also been a steady increase in the acceptance of vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis among at least the younger of the priority age groups. Such facilities continue available equally from welfare centres and medical practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1960

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1								
2 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 25	(2)	(1)		(1)				
25 - 35								
35 - 45								
45 - 55								
55 - 65	1							
65 & over								
Not known	(1)	(1)						
TOTALS	1(3)	-(2)	-	-(1)	-	-	-	-

* Figures in brackets indicate inward transfers.

Comment For 1960 it will be seen that new notifications are confined to one (in an elderly male) against a figure of four for the previous year.

No death from any form of tuberculosis occurred in Baldock during the year.

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health

June, 1961

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1949

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Urban District of Baldock for the year 1960

PART 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority	1	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) which S.7 is enforced by Local Authority	32	22	1	-
(3) Other premises in which S.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	3	-	-
Total ...	36	26	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) Overcrowding (S.2) Unreasonable temperature (S.3) Inadequate ventilation (S.4) Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Act	3	3			
	1	1		1	
Total ...	4	4	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork - Sections 110 and 111
Number of out-workers NIL

V. R. WALKER
District Medical Officer of Health

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